

Iris Versicolor -

The An Essay on the commonly
termed, the Blue Flag or Flag Lily, is

Iris Versicolor

ornamented with the title

Respectfully submitted to the
the Delaware ^{Faculty of the} may be found,

Growing **Homœopathic**

borders of swamps, in the neighborhood
Medical College

of the Pennsylvania.

color is
of a fleshy, fibrous nature, and is
perennial. On the 21st. of January, 1852,

being in One thousand, eight hundred, and fifty-two.
extended through By, Jos. G. Rowland,

of Illinois -

~~HARVEY CO.~~

Iris Versicolor

Spencer

It belongs to the Class Triandria,

The Iris Versicolor or as it is commonly termed, the Blue Flag, or Flag Lily, is indigenous to many parts of the United States, and is found universally in damp or marshy situations - On both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey, shores of the Delaware river, it may be found, growing in great abundance, near the borders of swamps, or in the neighborhood of creeks, which empty into that stream.

Flowers, two to six, in number, the

petals The Root of the Versicolor is of a fleshy, fibrous nature, and is perennial, the season of flowering being in June, though it is frequently extended through the ensuing month. The leaves are lanceolate, usually paler

It belongs to the Class Triandria,
order, Monogynia - and to the ~~erat.~~
Natural orders, Ensatae, of Linneus, and
Irides of Jussieu - has three valves,
and is divided into three cells -

when The Stem is two to three feet ~~tall~~
high, round on one side, somewhat
acute on the other - and is frequently
branching -

P Leaves ensiform and embracing the
stem, like a sheath -

P Flowers, two, to six, in number, the
petals being blue or purple on their
borders, and variegated on the centre
and claw, with white, green, and yellow.

The outer petals are spatulate; the
inner, varying in shape from spat-
ulate, to lanceolate, usually paler

than the outer, and entire, or pre-
emarginate. The inner petals are erect.

P The Styles, short and concealed.

P The Capsule, ovate - has three valves,
and is divided into three cells -
when mature is triangularly-oblong
with obtuse angles, and contains
numerous flat seeds as a cathartic
and emetic, and is highly spoken of by some

P Peduncles, various lengths, - flattened
on the inside the direction its classification

P digested. The dose is from 10 to 20 grains.

Stigmas, petaloid, purple, and
bifid at the extremity, - used to be
professed by the Indians, who, it is said, value
it as one of their most powerful medicines -
Indeed so important a place does it hold in
their estimation that a traveller among the

P The root is alone used in the medicinal preparation - The expressed juice has a nauseous acrid taste - which it imparts to water, but more strongly to alcohol - ~~which was constructed~~
In allopathic practice it has been considered useful in dropsical affections, on account of its power as a diuretic - but it is more especially mentioned in the books as a cathartic and emetic, and is highly spoken of by some physicians for the promptness and certainty of its action in the direction its' classification indicates - The dose is from 10 to 20 grains - .

It is probable that its' employment as a remedial agent, was first suggested to the profession by the Indians, who, it is said, value it as one of their most powerful medicines - Indeed so important a place does it hold in their estimation that a traveller among the

tribes in Georgia and Florida, mentions having seen an artificial pond in almost every village, covered with a luxuriant growth of the Iris, and which was constructed especially for its cultivation —

P. In times of prevailing sickness they would ~~then~~
partake freely of a decoction of the root, which together with prayer and fasting they considered an efficient guard against the attack of the epidemic — after taking the 3d dilution an uneasy feeling was experienced

P. Scorbutus cordis, together with a number of the following provings, with one or two exceptions, were made from the trituration prepared in the customary manner; the attenuations used were made on the decimal plan — No. 1. used the 3d, & 1st dilutions — and the mother tincture — No. 2 the same — No. 3, same & No. 4, the 1st. trituration — } Not stale

I will first present the symptoms of each individual prover, copied verbatim from the reports, and afterward, a combination of all the symptoms, in a systematic arrangement.

The symptoms are recorded in the order of their occurrence, in each case - ~~in~~ place to a feeling of liveliness and ~~at~~ by

Immediately after No. 1. first dilution symptom.

Sun. About fifteen minutes after taking the 3d dilution, an uneasy feeling was experienced in the scrobiculus cordis, together with numbness in lower part of abdomen - these symptoms increase until the lower part of sternum seems protruded - Nausea & eructations of wind -

Dull pain in right parietal protuberance, which increases steadily until it becomes a hammering pain, and so much aggravated by motion

1-

that for the moment, it appears unbearable -
but by continuing movement, it gradually
abates, returning again when at rest -

Rheumatic pain in right shoulder, worse on
motion - especially by raising the arm ^{of a}
A disposition to feel displeased with every-thing
and every-body, which gives place to a feeling
of liveliness and activity -

Immediately after taking first dilution, Sneezing.
Nausea and slight vomiting of a watery and
extremely sour fluid -

¶ About 2 hrs. after, severe stitch in inferior part of
occiput, more on the right, than left side -
¶ Severe rheumatic pain, in the whole right
arm and right knee-joint, worse on
motion, and continuing when at rest -
Acute and extremely severe boring pain in
right parietal protuberance, causing him

To bend down his head - ~~into prostration~~

P Pain in left side, as though the ribs were ~~thrust~~ pressing hard upon the lower portion of the lung - Unable to take a long breath for the pain in the left lung - which was of a sticking and cutting character -

A short, dry cough, excited by ticking in the larynx - Slight toothache, in a warm room -

Headache, much aggravated by coughing - Rumbling and uneasiness in the stomach, accompanied by diarrhoea, with little pain -

Stools lumpy, brown, and very offensive -

Sweat over the whole body, particularly in the groin - Dry cracked lips -

A sharp, cutting pain in the urethra, when commencing to urinate -

After taking medicine for five days, seven small vesicles appeared on the right wrist

which gradually formed into pustules,
having a depression in the centre - these
dried up in one night, leaving crusts,
which remained nine days before disappearing
(The prover thinks it proper to state, he had been
attending a severe case of small-pox.)

Sensation of fulness of head - Head full
Half an hour after taking nearly half an ounce
of the mother tincture, a feeling of rawness in
the throat - General languor - ill-humor -
Inability to fix the attention on any subject -
when writing, mind will wander to other things.
Diarrhaea, with colic - Nausia and vomiting
of a thin watery fluid, of an exceedingly
sour taste - constant nausea for more than
an hour, and vomiting several times -
Diarrhea, with rumbling and cutting in
the lower part of the abdomen -

Heat over the whole body - then chilliness,
with cold hands and feet -

Head feels very heavy, the eyes dull, with
pain directly over the left superciliary ridge -

Severe burning pain in the internal canthus
of right eye, the eye filling with tears

Sensation of fullness of head - Head feels
hot and face flushed -

Whenever attempting to laugh, a sensation
as though a band were drawn tightly around
the forehead, prevents ~~me~~ and itching

~~on the genitals, the itching being worse on~~

The day after taking mother tincture - Feeling
of sleepiness with great chilliness, only feeling
at all comfortable when near a very hot
fire, and even then, cold, chilly sensations are
felt down the back -

Violent tearing pain in right hip-joint, knee

No. 2 -

and shoulders, very severe indeed; the most severe only lasting about 2 or 3 minutes - Vomiting of the sour matter, before-mentioned - and great chilliness over the whole body during the night, although abundantly covered -

Weakness, despondency - thinks he is going to be very sick - then a disposition to laugh at his fears, which, however, soon return -

Dreams of suffocation and fire - cutting and sticking in the urethra, when making water, with coldness and itching over the genitals, the itching being worse on scratching - ~~by discharge of flatus~~

2. Six dyenteric stools during the night, with pain and rumbling in the lower part of the abdomen; also great lassitude - After these symptoms have abated there remains a sore-throat and slight headache ~~momentary pains~~

No. 2

1. Feeling of weakness and weariness in the lower part of the back - Pain, of a dull, aching character, in right hypochondria, when walking - Pains in right, then in left knee, when walking - Feeling of weariness in back for several days - Sharp pain near outer-side of left arm, when moving it - Swelling of gums on the inner surface of left side of lower jaw, under the molar teeth in Pain in left hip-joint, when walking - Redness of the conjunctiva as if from cold - For a day or two, much fetid flatulence - pain in abdomen, which is relieved by discharge of flatus -

2. Sharp pain in first joint of great toe of right side, when walking, renewed frequently during the day - Pain in the last joint of middle finger of left hand - A number of shooting, shifting and momentary pains

in the phalangeal and metacarpo-phalangeal articulations - All of these pains coming on more during the evening, and being worse on motion - Boils on back, face & hands.

Pain along posterior part of crista ili of the right side - Urine more copious -

The pain in first joint of great toe occurs, during walking, for a number of days -

Pain in left thigh - Pulse accelerated -

3. After increasing doses more frequently renewed,

Empty eruptions & pain in the stomach - Unusual restlessness during the night, sleep disturbed by startings - Aching pain in the stomach before breakfast -

Pains, tense and sticking in right shoulder during motion, particularly on raising the arm - (This symptom set in soon after commencing the proving, continued throughout,

and was observed five or six weeks after discontinuing the medicine -).

Pains in the metacarpal joints of both hands, muscles of right arm, and pectoralis major, mostly during motion, and in the evening. - Woke two hours earlier than usual, with no disposition to renew sleep.

Pain in bowels, going off by discharge of flatus - Feeling of a greasy coating over mouth and tongue, early in the morning - Aching pain in the stomach after drinking cold water - Pains through the day in most all of the limbs - Urine increased in quantity -

P Tense, momentary, and constantly recurring pains in all the joints, but mostly the smaller which shift rapidly about - mostly in the evening; - that is, from supper to bed-time. Pain in abdomen above crista ili, both sides -

No. 3.

After breakfast, a diarrhaic stool, with
subsequent pain in epigastrum in particular.
In writing, pains in phalanges of right hand
~~and~~ and in the end of index finger of same hand.
(Observed several weeks after proving.) —

Pain in left thigh — Shooting, sticking pain
in the right foot — Continuous sharp pain
along the left side of first phalanx of the
middle finger of right hand — causing a
sharp pain in ends of the middle fingers
of left hand, succeeded instantly, by a
similar pain in the axilla of same side —

(occurring frequently during about 5 minutes.) —

Sudden diarrhaic stool after supper —
sharp, cutting pain, frequent, in the metacarpo-
phalangeal articulation of thumb of right hand —
Vexed, irritable mood — disposed to find fault —

(Proving No. 2 was made by the same individual, at 3 different periods —)

No. 3 -

Pulse somewhat accelerated - Headache for two days - The third day, he was seized with a peculiar headache - the pain shot, as he describes it, like an electric shock a streak of lightning, from the right temple, to the left part of occiput - , and continued about half an hour - Headache, with great depression of spirits and general debility -

R Crampy pains in right lumbar region - in the evening, continuing several hours, and causing a sweat to break out - Woke up unusually early with dry mouth, & general depression -

R Headache, occurring irregularly during several days - Observed a pimple on middle finger of left hand - the next day the inflammation was extended over the hand - the day after it became more violent, and occasioned great pain, and was afterward opened to obtain relief - no pus was found, but it was subsequently formed, and

No. 4.

discharged through the opening, which penetrated as far as the bone - a fungous growth, meanwhile, having taken place, around the edges pain extended from this hand up the arm -

There was much swelling and pain, in the part affected, which had much the appearance of a malignant boil - There was a disposition to a similar formation on the index finger, but the inflammation subsided after a time, and finally disappeared -

During the proving, the urine was very copious and had a strongly disagreeable odor -

Restlessness for five nights in succession -

Headache with pain in the bowels -

Giddiness of stomach, in the evening, obliging him to lie down - Pain in left side of chest -

* The pain in the finger, was accompanied by sweat, although the weather was very cold -

No. 4.

Colicky pains, during the evening and night,
obliging him to bend forward for relief, and
attended with loss of appetite and great
restlessness during the night - this colic
continued the next day, but was immediately
relieved by a dose of nux. vomica -

No appetite, next day - Restless at night,
with troublesome dreams -

Several pimples on lower extremities, and
other parts of the body, like mosquito
bites - Constipation several days -

Languid and feverish in the afternoon - no
disposition to mental or physical exercise -

Next day, flushed face, fever, drowsiness, and
loss of appetite - weakness and languor, with
rumbling in the bowel - the morning after, a
thin, watery diarrhea, continuing through the day -
Debility and loss of appetite - Diarrhetic stools

the next day - succeeded by pain in the umbilical region - Colic in the afternoon, ceasing at night - Headache aggravated by coughing - Sensation of fullness in the head - Hand face feel hot - When attempting to laugh, sensation of constriction around

Coughing
Headache - Summary. - Sancinating

Mind and Disposition.

Despondency - Low spirits - Easily vexed, and put out of humor - Afraid he is going to be very sick, and afterwards laughs at his fears, which soon return - succeeded by liveliness and activity -

Head - pain over left eye

Dull pain in right parietal prominence, becoming afterward a hammering pain, violently aggravated by motion, which if continued relieves it; but it soon returns, when at rest - Severe stitch in lower part of occiput, more on the right side -

Extremely severe boring pain in the right parietal protuberance, causing him to bend the head down - Headache aggravated by coughing - Sensation of fullness in the head - Head and face feel hot - When attempting to laugh, sensation of constriction around forehead - Head feels heavy - Lancinating pain in outer corner of right eyebrow - Pain shooting from right temple to left part of occiput, compared to ~~a streak of lightning~~^{an electric shock} Constant nausea - Eyes ~~in the~~ during a ~~head~~

Redness of conjunctiva as if from cold - The eyes feel dull with pain over left superciliary ridge - Severe burning pain in external canthus with effusion of tears -

Greasy feeling over tongue and gums, on rising in the morning - Feeling of rawness in the mouth -

Slight soreness of throat - Dry mouth - Slight toothache in a warm room - Dry cracked lips - Swelling and soreness of gums, inner part, below molar teeth of left side - loss mainly of weight -

Taste and Appetite -

Bitter taste - also foul - Loss of appetite -

Crampy pains in right lumbar region -

Colic, etc., Gastric Symptoms -

Nausea and empty eructations - Nausea and vomiting of a watery and extremely sour fluid - Constant nausea and vomiting, during an hour -

Aching in stomach before breakfast and on drinking cold water - Sickness of stomach obliging him to lie down -

Hypochondria and Abdomen -

Uneasy feeling in Scrobiulus cordis - Rumbling in lower part of abdomen - Lower part of sternum seems protruded - Colic -

Cutting pain in lower part of abdomen -
Pain in abdomen relieved by discharge of flatus -
Pain in right hypochondria, worse on motion -
Pain along origin of gluteus maximus, of
right side - Pain in abdomen above crista
ili, on both sides, first on right -
Crampy pains in right lumbar region -
Colic, obliging him to bend forward for relief -
Fatid flatulence -

Stool -
Diarrhea, with slight pain, accompanied by
rumbling and uneasiness in stomach -
Stools, lumpy, brown and very offensive -
Diarrhea with colicky pains - Diarrhea
with rumbling and cutting in lower part
of abdomen - Six dysenteric stools at night
with rumbling and pain in abdomen, and
great lassitude - Sudden liquid evacuation

after eating supper - Constipation, for sometime succeeded by thin, watery diarrhoea - when writing

Genital and Urinary Organs -

A sharp cutting pain in urethra, when beginning to urinate - Coldness and itching of genitals, made worse by scratching - Urine copious - strong, disagreeable smell to the urine - Cutting & sticking in urethra, when urinating

Upper Extremities

A sharp tensile pain in right shoulder, worse on motion, especially by raising the arm - and continuing a long time by this pain occurs most in the evening - Severe pain, shooting, momentary and shifting rapidly about, in the phalangeal and metacarpo-phalangeal articulations, and also in the sides and ends of fingers, of both hands - These pains more in the evening Sharp pain in end of middle fingers of left hand

succeeded instantly by a similar pain in axilla of same side - Pains in phalanges when writing - ~~lessened during the night~~

~~Making~~ Lower Extremities ~~usual~~ -

Pain in right knee joint, worse on motion - Violent tearing pain in right hip and knee joints, - Sharp pains, similar to those in hand in right hip, right and left knee joints, & in right foot, especially in the first joint of great toe, all worse on motion in following Larynx and Chest ~~hands and feet~~

Short dry cough, excited by tickling in the larynx - Pain in the left side as though the ribs were pressing against the lung - Unable to take a long breath from the pain in the left chest - which was of a cutting and sticking character -

Pain in left part of the chest -

~~old~~Sleep

Feeling of drowsiness - Sleepiness, with chills -

Unusual restlessness during the night

Making much earlier than usual -

Startings during sleep - Restless every night -

Dreams of suffocation, and fire -

to the bone Fever &c -

Sweat from violent pain in finger (No. 3) -

Sweat over the whole body, but particularly
in the groin - Heat over the whole body,
followed by chills, with cold hands and feet -

Desire to be close to the fire, and even then -

chills along the back - Chills over the
whole body at night, although abundantly
covered - Feverish, during pains in abdomen (No. 4)

Pulse accelerated - ~~and~~ ^{more} rapid in the evening,

and at night - Pains aggravated on motion -

Right side most affected -

Skin - by an examination
 Several vesicles on right wrist, gradually forming
 into pustules, which dried up in one night,
 leaving crusts, which remained nine days (No. 3)
 Malignant sore, resembling a boil, on middle
 finger of left hand, forming a cavity reaching
 to the bone - (see No. 3) ~~cautious~~
 Pimples resembling mosquito bites on body
 and extremities - (no ~~what can~~)
 Small boils on the back, face and hands -

General Symptoms -

General debility - feeling of weakness and
 weariness - ~~vesicular skin infection~~
 so was on the birth but little knowledge
 of any of ~~the~~ The Characteristic Peculiarities - ~~certainly~~

The symptoms appear mostly in ~~the evening~~
 and at night - Pains aggravated on motion -
 Right side most affected - ~~not only~~

It will be seen, by an examination of the above provings, and a comparison of them with the Clinical Remarks of Dr. Kitchen, published in the North American Journal of Homœopathy, for November 1857, how conclusively they substantiate the truth of our great homœopathic law -

Symptom. Here we find a striking example of proof 'a posteriori', which can not fail to impress itself upon the enquirer into the merits of our system -

When it is remembered that the notice of Iris versicolor above referred to, was written with but little knowledge of any of its pathogenetic effects; certainly with none, of its' peculiar action, and when we see these effects, as subsequently manifested on the healthy, not only

ranging themselves in the same line
of diseases as treated of in the essay, but
even the exact symptoms corresponding in
many particulars, the honest and un-
prejudiced mind cannot but consider
it an absolute verification, of the certainty
and accuracy, with which the law of
'Similia-' may be applied — No less,
does it denote the correctness of the
author's observation of the characters
of disease, detailed in his valuable
contribution ~~in experience;~~ these

Opinions There are certainly, however,
other affections, beside those treated of in
the remarks of Dr. Hitchen, to which the
Iris is suitable, and, although it would
scarcely be proper in one, who has had
but little experience with the manifestations

of disease, to attempt an inference of the special applicability of a remedy from an incomplete pathogenesis, yet there is one important point in the foregoing proving whose suggestion is so evident that it cannot be overlooked - I refer to the tearing, shooting and rapidly shifting pains in joints and extremities, especially the smaller joints, but more particularly in the right shoulder - which are so prominent in No. 2, and of which the writer had ample experience; these symptoms will lead us to consider the probable usefulness of this vers. in Rheumatism, located in similar situations, especially if occurring more in the evening, and if aggravated by motion -

There are other deductions, which such no one desire, more earnestly, than he who has made the first endeavor.

possibly might be allowable, but they would be offered with much hesitation on account of the unavoidable insufficiency of material and detail which is manifest in the record of symptoms -

The writer would then say, in conclusion, that he does not offer the above provings as by any means a complete pathogenesis, but merely, what with limited opportunities and means for investigation, he has been able to collect - It is, no doubt, reserved for others, who have sufficient time to devote their undivided attention to it, to give this article, which, it is evident, will occupy an important place in our Materia Medica, an ample and detailed proving - That it is worthy such a trial no one will deny, and that it will receive such, no one desires more earnestly, than he who has made the first endeavour